

Good morning,

I am contacting you in support of HB6376 Peace Officer status for Motor Vehicle Inspectors. I am unable to attend the testimony for the bill on February 14, 2019. I was a local police officer in the Town of Enfield for over 27 years before retiring and taking a job with the Motor Vehicle Department as an Inspector. During my time in Enfield, I worked closely with the DMV Inspectors and found them to be highly trained and very professional. A Motor Vehicle Inspector is required to go through the same hiring practices as any other member of Protective Services, this includes obtaining police certification from the Police Officers Training Council by attending the police recruit academy class. A Motor Vehicle inspector then is certified by POSTC and must stay certified as a police officer by meeting the required mandates every three years as set by POSTC. Now that I work for the Department of Motor Vehicles, I can tell you that we have a very dedicated group of men and women that strive to make the highways and byways of Connecticut safe for all individuals by enforcing the Connecticut Motor Vehicles on all vehicles and the Federal Motor Carrier Regulations on commercial motor vehicles. In order for a motor vehicle inspector to do their job they must make a motor vehicle stop of the vehicle. Making motor vehicle stops is one of the most dangerous portions of any police officers' job during their shift. I am sure you are aware that every year numerous police officers, veterans and recently on the job are seriously injured or killed by the operator and or passenger in the vehicle they stop. The person or persons committing the assaults or murders of the police officer does not take the time to determine what position or title the officer has all they see is a person with a badge and a gun that is now their target. How in a time of fairness and equality do we tell the loved one of a motor vehicle inspector, that is seriously hurt or killed that they were a well-liked person and did their job well but they are not entitled to the same protections and benefits as other police officers or peace officers over a definition in the Connecticut General Statutes. During these constantly changing times, it is time for the State of Connecticut to change and afford Motor Vehicle Inspectors the same rights, privileges and respect that other peace officers are afforded. I ask that a motor vehicle inspector be placed in the definition of peace officer just as a probation officer, a judicial marshal or an investigator for criminal justice department. I again ask for your support in passing this bill as the Police Officers working for the Department of Motor Vehicles have worked hard and take pride in their profession and are truly deserving of the classification as a peace officer. Thank you for your time and support in this issue.

William Vieweg

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